



HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Following a major Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA (per Executive Order 12673) provides disaster response and recovery assistance under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act). The Stafford Act describes generally the declaration process, types and extent of assistance that may be provided and fundamental eligibility requirements.

HMGP (404 MITIGATION)

HMGP is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and administered by the State of Texas. The HMGP is not a disaster relief program for individual disaster victims, or a recovery program that funds repairs to public property damaged during a disaster, it is a mitigation grant with a single mission to provide a means to:

- prevent or reduce future losses to lives and property through the identification and funding of cost-effective mitigation measures;
- minimize the costs of future disaster response and recovery.

The HMGP can fund mitigation measures that protect both public and private property, so long as the measures fit within the overall mitigation strategy for the State and sub-applicant, are cost effective, and comply with all Federal and State program guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The HMGP may provide federal funds up to 75% of the cost of appropriate hazard mitigation projects. Eligible applicants, include state and local governments, certain non-profit organizations and institutions, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes. Applicants must contribute at least 25% of the cost of their projects. This 25% match can be made in a variety of ways to include "in kind" matches.

Federal funding is limited, and there are usually more requests than there are dollars. Awards are made on a competitive basis, with only the most effective projects being funded.

Eligibility to participate in the HMGP for all disasters declared after November 1, 2004, requires jurisdictions to have:

1. A FEMA approved Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) for all applications with the exception of MAP planning grants:

PLEASE NOTE: HMGP project applications are competitive and those eligible projects that are specifically identified in the sub grantee's mitigation action plan will have the best chance of selection.

2. A project that meets the following general requirements:
 - Solves a problem by preventing or substantially reducing hazard consequences and future risks;
 - Has a beneficial impact by providing long-term meaningful and definable risk reduction benefits;
 - Is cost effective with a project cost that is less than the loss from potential future damages;
 - Is environmentally sound creating no negative impacts on the environment, impoverished or minority populations, or surrounding communities;
 - Complies with all State and Federal laws, rules, and administrative requirements;
3. A current emergency management plan that meets the requirements for a basic level of planning preparedness as defined in the Preparedness Standards for Texas Emergency Management (DEM 100).
4. Must be participating in the NFIP for all projects located in a mapped special flood hazard area. Sub-applicants cannot be sanctioned or suspended by the NFIP.

STATE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

Upon activation following the Presidential declaration of a major disaster, the HMGP is open to participation from eligible applicants throughout Texas.

It is the responsibility of the State Hazard Mitigation Team to continuously identify natural hazards and to direct available mitigation funding toward the protection of our citizens and their property from future losses due to those hazards.

TYPES OF PROJECTS CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

The HMGP can be used to fund projects to protect either public or private property. Examples of projects include:

- Acquisition/demolition/elevation of flood-prone structures;
- Community and individual storm shelter programs;
- Retrofitting facilities (flood proofing, high wind, seismic, etc.);
- Small scale structural hazard control/protection projects;
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Limited funding is available for initiative projects such as public awareness, enhanced hazard information systems, enhanced warning capabilities, etc.
- Limited funding is available for the development of State and local mitigation action plans (MAPs);

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) serves as the Grantee and administers the HMGP for the State of Texas.

All eligible jurisdictions/organizations are encouraged to develop proposed eligible mitigation projects and seek funding through the HMGP. The State has determined that HMGP will be available statewide for this declaration, with special attention given to wildfire mitigation projects as the cause of the current declaration.

Notification of the availability of HMGP funding will be accomplished with a notice posted in the Texas Register and local applicant briefings held for all jurisdictions within the declared area. All eligible applicants are invited to complete and submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) describing their prospective project(s). Selected eligible applicants submitting NOIs with eligible projects will then be requested to complete and submit a formal application for HMGP funds. Applications must be received by TDEM no later than the posted application deadline. The State Hazard Mitigation Team will review each application, and recommend to the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), those projects that should be sent to FEMA for fund obligation. Once projects are approved by FEMA, up to 75% of eligible project costs can be reimbursed to applicants.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of limited funds, the comprehensive application process, and federal program requirements, the approval of HMGP projects by FEMA often takes several months.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Applicants (Sub grantees) must submit a complete and accurate application to TDEM for participation, and commit to meeting the 25% cost-share requirement.
- The senior elected official (County Judge or Mayor) or Chief Executive Officers, must appoint an individual to serve as the local Project Officer.
- The local Project Officer serves as a single point of contact with TDEM, and is responsible for administering the HMGP at the local level in accordance with all-applicable laws, regulations, and administrative requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Regulations for the HMGP are published in the revised Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance in effect at the time of the disaster declaration. All required forms as well as fact sheets, job aids, and guidance materials are available on line at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem. If additional assistance is needed please contact:

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